PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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Bay Area

No Free Speech for Fascists

BAY AREA , August 27 — A multiracial group of twenty-five members and friends of Progressive Labor Party joined hundreds of antiracists to shut down Nazi demonstrations two days in a row.

Day 1: San Francisco

For three months, the racists had planned to have a rally in Crissy Field. As the date loomed closer, politicians and other officials began warning people to stay away and avoid the rally for fear of violence. They began giving police extra enforcement powers and creating restrictions on the protest to keep it peaceful. If politicians really cared about violence, they would not allow the racists to rally in the first place. Racist speech emboldens people to commit racist violence and normalizes a world where people face racist and violent poverty and state terror. Capitalism allows racists to have free speech because it allows the bosses to keep running society and making profits.

Despite the urging of politicians and other misleaders, hundreds planned to show up to Crissy Field to challenge the racists, a testament to working class bravery and understanding of the need to fight racism. Unsure of what to expect, members of PLP scouted the area of the rally in order to prepare ourselves if any dangerous situation arose.

Flaky Racists

On Friday afternoon, the day before the planned rally, the racists announced they would not rally at Crissy Field anymore and instead go to Alamo Square. Presumably, they were afraid of hundreds confronting them.

After hearing this news, our comrades and friends got together to come up with a new plan. Many were nervous about what would happen the next day. Many had never been in a situation like this, and one person had only been to one protest before. After the planning, we had a good plan and we were confident in each other and our ability to navigate unpredictable situations. This bravery was especially impressive most people were teenagers, and two young women stepped up and gave leadership.



The next day, someone announced that the racists cancelled their rally at Alamo Square too. We decided to go to Alamo Square because the racists could still show up.

When we got there, we saw a crowd of hundreds of antiracists and no Nazis to be found. The rally turned into a victory march for intimidating the Nazis out of San Francisco. At the march, we gave out CHALLENGE and led chants. New people got on the bullhorn and we even made up some new chants on the spot.

People in our group commented that we did a good job of keeping the energy up the whole time, even when the spirit of the march died down. Someone also commented that a spirited group of fifteen could change the whole climate of a large part of the march.

At the end, as we were walking away, a squad of San Francisco Police walked by us, and someone in our group started chanting, "How do you spell racist? SFPD!" This was an inspiring action because it showed the bold antiracism of our young base members.

After the march, we went to debrief. During this discussion, someone reported that a group of racists had assembled at Crissy Field and that they outnumbered the antiracists. We decided it was our duty to confront the Nazis. Nervous, we piled back into our cars and drove to Crissy Field. When we got there, we could see racists and antiracists huddled up and a line of police. There were so many road blockages that it took thirty minutes just to get to the field. By the time we got there, the Nazis had fled.We felt a strange combination of relief and frustration that we couldn't confront them.

Although there were no Nazis, we saw that we had enough confidence in each other to go into a potentially dangerous situation, and we learned

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorials

Imperialism Means: Endless War in Afghanistan

With Donald Trump has endorsed the return of thousands of additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan, a sign of the U.S. bosses' anxiety about leaving a superpower vacuum in Central Asia and the Middle East. This 16-year-old war, the longest in U.S. history, is a product of inter-imperialist rivalries—mainly between the U.S. and China, but also between regional rivals Pakistan and India, and China and India as well.

House of Cards

For three centuries, the bloody British imperialists ravaged what is today Afghanistan. Then the U.S. imperialists followed suit. After 16 years of wreckage for the working class in Afghanistan, with the Taliban resurgent and controlling vast swaths of territory, the U.S. bosses have been forced to admit both their failure to date and their lack of any solution for the future:

> *American-led efforts, despite some successes, have ended up reinforcing and accelerating the broader cycles of violence and fragmentation that have been growing since the state's collapse in the early 1990s…Its [Afghanistan's] location puts it at the mercy of several foreign powers, all of whom would benefit from seeing Afghanistan stabilize but also stand to lose out if another country dominates (New York Times, 8/24).*

As the U.S. drew down its military in Afghanistan, from a peak of more than 100,000 troops in 2011 to fewer than 10,000 today, it left an opening for China. The Chinese capitalist bosses are eagerly filling the gap with troops, funds, and training of local forces:

> *China's financial interests revolve around Afghanistan's abundance of natural resources and minerals, and its access to Central Asian markets. Beijing sees Afghanistan as a vital link for its "One Belt, One Road" initiative, an economic policy that seeks to connect Eurasia to China (Military Times, 3/5).*

The U.S. rulers can ill afford for China to become the dominant big power in this critically strategic territory. If the U.S. cannot control Afghanistan, it will dig in for a stalemate, which means more chaos, slaughter, and plunder of the working class. In 2016 alone, according to a United Nations report, "3,498 Afghan civilians were killed…and 7,920 were injured, making it the deadliest year for civilian casualties since the U.N. began counting in 2009….[T]he number of children killed in 2016 was 24 percent greater than the previous highest recorded figure" (nbcnews.com, 8/22).

Not for the first time, the U.S. is exploiting the regional rivalry between India and Pakistan to sustain this stalemate. But with India pledging billions to Afghanistan in the wake of its transit and trade agreements with U.S. nemesis Iran, and Pakistan strengthening its economic and military partnership with U.S. archrival China, this strategy may backfire.

No Grand Plan

The war without end in Afghanistan has provoked disagreement within the main wing of the U.S. ruling class, as recently illustrated by two writers associated with the Council of Foreign Relations, the bosses' leading think tank. While Max Boot favored renewed "nation-building" in Afghanistan (NYT, 8/22), Aaron O'Connell called for a de-escalation and adopting "more realistic, minimal goals" (Foreign Affairs, 6/16).

The rulers' indecision reflects the relative weakening of U.S imperialism. U.S. bosses have no winning cards to play, which makes them even more dangerous to the international working class.

Workers, the Wild Card

The working class, organized under the revolutionary communist leadership of Progressive Labor Party, holds the trump card. As the imperialists expand their wars, they are forced to recruit into their armies the same workers and students who are targeted by the bosses' racist attacks. These young soldiers, won to a worldview of no borders and no capitalism, can turn the next world war into a revolutionary war for communism. The capitalists inevitably will make their wars, but we will finish them!✪

Charlottesville: Rising Fascism & Flux

The spectacle and aftermath of Charlottesville heralds a torch-bearing fascist movement in the U.S., a danger to the main wing of the ruling class. Donald Trump, the first U.S. president since the 1930s to fail to make a categorical condemnation of Nazis, finally yielded to bipartisan condemnation and pressure from leading U.S. capitalists and generals. Even then, however, the Racist-in-Chief proposed that the fighting anti-racists—acting in defense of their working-class brothers and sisters—were equally "bad."

Homegrown Fascism

On August 12, hundreds of Nazis, KKK, and other white supremacists gathered in Charlottesville, many carrying firearms. Thousands of antiracists, joined by members of Progressive Labor Party, showed up to confront them. The first Nazis to arrive were physically attacked by many. The police and National Guard were on hand to protect the fascists, but couldn't save them from the ire of the masses.

As the fascists were leaving, a Nazi used a car to run over a multitude of antifascists, murdering 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injuring 19.

As American as a Nazi

Amid the fury of the antiracist masses, Trump was forced to read a statement saying: "Those who spread violence in the name of intolerance strike the heart of America." No, they do not! These cowardly thugs were acting according to the core value on which the U.S. was founded: racist genocide. The White House was built by slaves on land stolen from exterminated indigenous peoples.

The antifascist masses have shown courage and a willingness to repel the fascists' violence with their own. Many still believe that fascism "is un-American," and that tearing down confederate statues is a patriotic attack against "traitors." Workers and students in the U.S. and worldwide have marched in solidarity with the antifascists in Charlottesville (see page 4). This movement has steadily increased in numbers and in its anger, intensified by Trump's open support of the Nazis.

Danger to the Main Wing

The bosses' media mouthpieces pulled all the strings to steer the conversation away from organized violence and toward pacifism and liberal patriotism, going so far as to suggest that satire and humor could be used to defeat fascism. Their desperation reflects the instability within the Trump administration and growing concerns within the ruling class that Trump can competently serve their interests.

An openly fascist movement is perilous for the main wing because it ruptures the illusion of democracy and undermines their need for a strong military and a populace united in fighting the capitalists' imperialist wars. Notice the bosses' angst over the increasing disillusionment and alienation of the white working class:

[Trump's] presidential campaign was built on a foundation of white working-class despair…As a

Continued on page 4

Mohamed Bah & Dwayne Jeune

No Justice for Mentally Ill Workers under KKKapitalism

New York City, August 22—It could be the open fascist terror of Nazis and Klansmen marching in Charlottesville with the tacit approval of the Racist In Chief. Or it could be the bosses' "Klan in Blue" - cops who kill over 1000 working class people a year. Wherever we are, workers and students must fight back! Recently several Progressive Labor Party (PLP) comrades in a local congregation mobilized a group of protesters to join two anti-racist demonstrations.



Killers of Mohamed Still Off Scot-Free

We joined a multiracial coalition demanding that the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York prosecute the cops who murdered Mohamed Bah five years ago. Mohamed was a college student and cab driver, and had a psychotic episode. His mother called for an ambulance to take him to a hospital. Instead of sending medical help, all they sent were cops. They refused her help in diffusing the situation, broke down the apartment door, and murdered Mohamed.

There is clear evidence of an execution and cover-up by the cops. Depositions have been taken to force prosecution by both the Manhattan District Attorney and the Federal prosecutor. Evidence has been 'lost' or contaminated. As we go to press we have just learned that the federal prosecutor refused to press any charges against the executioners of Mohamed Bah. No surprise! A civil suite still remains.

Dwayne, Murdered by Cops in his Apartment

The previous Saturday, several of us joined a multiracial demonstration of hundreds that gathered in front of the building where Dwayne Jeune, a 32-year-old, mentally ill worker was murdered by cops in his own apartment on July 31. The circumstances virtually identical to Mohamed Bah's murder five years before. A lawyer representing the Jeune family, other victims' families, and some community organizers gave speeches.

We need a lifelong commitment to a better world—communism! We then marched many blocks through Brooklyn's Flatbush community to the precinct that had sent the killer-cops.

The cops are thugs for the racist billionaire bosses and their capitalists. To terrorize workers and stop any fightback, they have developed a particularly vicious pattern. Families seeking assistance for a relative suffering mental distress call for medical help. Instead of an ambulance, armed cops arrive. Without accepting help from the family, they provoke a confrontation "justifying" killing the victim.

As we help organize these anti-racist struggles, we must redouble our efforts to expose the entire capitalist system. The increasingly fascist criminal "justice" system will very rarely prosecute —and almost never convict—the cops that are actually carrying out the bosses' plans of repression and terror. We must increase our organizing actions to shut down schools, work places and transportation. We will push back against fascist terror! And we will recruit more and more workers and students who understand that destroying this killer capitalist system with communist revolution is the only ultimate solution.✪

Need Revolutionary Violence to Stop Nazis

Continued from page 1

the importance of building a group of people who could fight together in the future.

Day 2: Berkeley

The next day, we assembled to rally against a Nazi demonstration in in Berkeley. One comrade stated that it was normal for racists to play whack-a-mole in San Francisco, but that historically that they show up in Berkeley when they say they will. We prepared ourselves for violence and talked about the importance of staying together and following leadership.

We went to the park where antiracists gathered, a few blocks from where the racists were rallying. We started distributing literature while the organizers of the march gave speeches. Later, we heard the racists had started to show up and we were antsy to go confront them.

Misleaders Try to Silence Militancy

Despite the knowledge that Nazis were gathering at Civic Center, which was the whole reason so many people turned out, the misleaders refused to take the march to Civic Center! We believed this was intentional to keep people subdued and to stop confrontations. Misleaders wanted us to hear their speeches instead of using working-class power to stop the racists. It was absolutely maddening! We started chanting, "Let's march! Let's march! Let's march!" and others joined in with us. The leadership told us we would march soon and tried to silence us.

When we finally started marching, we led chants and pumped up the energy of people around us. Someone was beating a drum at the front of the march, so we led chants to the beat and people got really into it. The crowd especially liked the chant, "Turn up, don't turn down, let's run these Nazis out of town!"

By the time we got to Civic Center, the police had blocked off the whole park and there were no racists to be seen. The misleaders stalled everybody until they knew it would be too late to confront the Nazis. After we gave out our literature, we left, for there were no racists to confront, and the crowd was getting agitated.

One person in our group commented that people wanted to confront the racists but couldn't, and they thought that it could get violent because people had no way to channel their anger. Indeed, as we were leaving, some people were throwing smoke bombs, which can only lead to dangerous situations that hurt other workers. The working class is outraged at the rise of racism and fascism, but misleaders prevent us from using our anger for the good of the working class. It was a good reminder of why we need to build a revolutionary communist PLP that can channel our anger into fighting capitalism and ultimately destroying this system.

Reflections

We discussed our actions over the past two days. Some comrades commented that our actions were inspiring because we were able to turn out almost thirty people to fight with us. If we continue meeting together and host study groups, this can be a basis for fighting more militantly and bringing out more people in the future. It was also inspiring because so many people were young, new, and multiracial. Moreover, younger and newer comrades gave leadership and we strengthened our confidence in ourselves.

This weekend was a reminder of the need to work in mass organizations. Going to rallies is important, but you can't accomplish as much at a rally as you can in long-term work in mass organizations.

In order to build a fighting Party, it's not enough to just talk to workers on the streets. We must also entrench ourselves at our workplace or school, and build long-term relationships and lead struggles where we are. That is the only way we will build a party that can destroy capitalism. Overall, this weekend was very energizing to comrades and friends of PLP in the Bay Area and we are excited for upcoming battles.✪

Faith, Confidence, and 'Death to the Klan'

BROOKLYN, NY, August 19—Over a dozen multiracial, women and men members and friends of the Progressive Labor Party rallied in Brooklyn today with signs and leaflets that read "No Free Speech for Racists" and "Death to the Klan with Multiracial Unity." In one hour, contacts were made, over 550 leaflets were distributed, and over 200 CHALLENGEs were sold at a busy street corner in the heart of this Black and immigrant neighborhood.

In particular, workers responded to the call for "death to the Klan from Charlottesville to New York City." Many workers stopped to read the leaflet and discuss how we can organize; on one street corner, a worker helped advertise our leaflet and called other workers over to read a leaflet and buy a newspaper.

Even the Christian groups passing out their own literature listened to our discussions and took our leaflets. At one point a lively and friendly debate was held between a Black, religiously-minded woman worker and a white, communist-minded male worker in PLP. The debate was brought down to earth when the Black worker opened up about her disgust at the open revival of the Ku Klux Klan and Nazis. Religious or not, masses of workers share this workers' exasperation at what we can do about the Klan, apart from "having faith."

The religious worker and the communist worker did not reach consensus on whether or not there is life after death. However, they both agreed in freeing workers - in this life - from the Klan, racial segregation, racist borders, and imperialist war. Both agreed in multiracial unity, and the need to organize and fight back. While clear disagreements regarding religious faith remain and cannot be casually dismissed, agreement on these points of unity in action can be important to our class in building a political base for the sharpening struggles to come. Hopefully this dialogue will continue developing into genuine friendship, based on antiracism and political struggle!



Baltimore rally in solidarity with antiracists in Charlottesville

Above all, communists don't write off or surrender whole sections of workers to the bosses' ideas, ever; from white workers to Black workers to religious Christian and Muslim workers! All workers are hurt by racism, sexism, and imperialism, and capitalism uses its most vicious attacks on Black workers, especially women. Today more than ever, masses of them are looking for a way out. Charlottesville has sharpened the mood of the masses. For how long is impossible to predict, but the workers who took hundreds of leaflets and CHALLENGEs, who donated their money to our Party and shared their time to discuss politics and life, taught us we can return to work bolder. And, more confident that communist revolution is an idea whose time has come, if we persist and struggle to spread it.✪

Charlottesville: Rising Fascism and Flux

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study by the Brookings Institution concludes, "the American Dream of prosperity, equality, opportunity, and stable democracy is being challenged by increasing income inequality, the hollowing out of the middle class, decreasing wages and increased insecurity for low-skilled workers, and rising mortality rates."

The perceived threat of the other [Black, Latin, Muslim, and immigrant workers] is what drove Trump's presidential candidacy, and it has become the primary theme of his presidency (Foreign Affairs, 8/21).

While the bosses need racism to exploit and divide the working class, they can't afford to cede their monopoly over terror to rogue free-lancers.

No Free Speech for Racists

Trump, openly championed by the Ku Klux Klan, has repeatedly blamed "both sides" for the racist violence in Charlottesville. For their part, the liberal politicians, preachers, media, and unions called for "non-violence" in the face of fascism. Keeping the capitalist state's monopoly on violence is critical to the bosses' continued repression of the masses and maintainance of their capitalist system.

Progressive Labor Party has a long and proud history of beating back racist and fascist organizers of all kinds. PL believes in mass, multiracial violence against Nazis and Klansmen. But to eliminate fascism once and for all, antifascists need to join and help build a mass, working-class, antiracist movement for communist revolution.

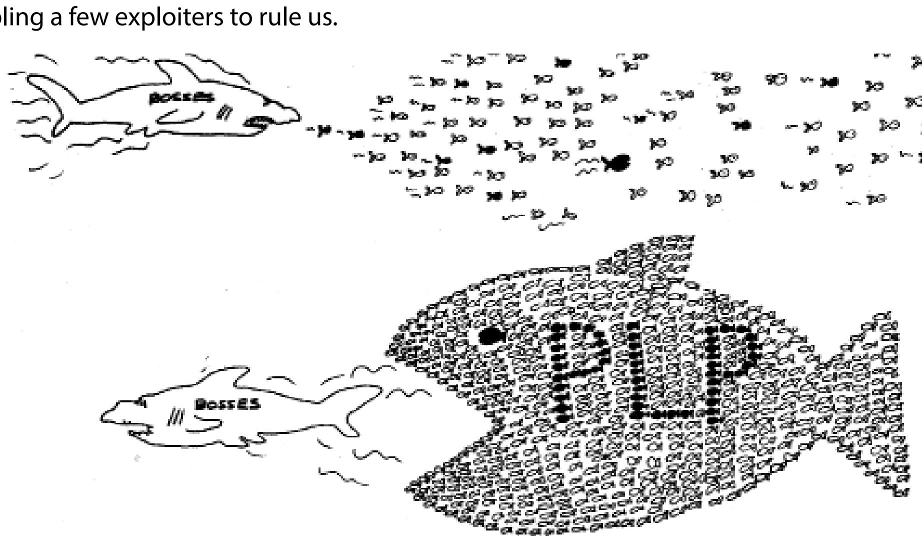
Communism: Workers' Dream, Bosses' Nightmare

The worst nightmare for the capitalists is that workers, soldiers and youth will see the necessity of working-class unity to destroy the bosses' racist system and the Nazis thugs. They want to stop the enraged antiracists before they can mobilize for communism. But that's exactly what the masses need to do to smash racism and build a system to meet workers' needs.

Some antifascists already understand that "Trump is the symptom, capitalism is the disease." We need to spread the knowledge that racism and sexism is the lifeline of the global capitalism. It uses these murderous ideas to divide us, enabling a few exploiters to rule us.

Communism will abolish the wage system. We can work collectively to produce what we need, without bosses or borders. Ultimately we'll need an armed mass revolution to build a communist society.

Our task is to distribute CHALLENGE, and to build PLP in the factories, schools, and barracks. We need to prepare ourselves and our friends to fight the racists whenever they show their faces, just like the brave antifascists in Virginia. In every action and conversation, our goal must be to mobilize for communism. We need to prepare to lead a new society run by and for the international working class. Join us and build the Progressive Labor Party Only communism can smash fascism.✪



Why we need the party

Building Bolsheviks: Piatnitsky Part II

Czarist Russia: Prison, Escape and Exile



Osip Piatnitsky was a revolutionary leader who played a key role in organizing the working class before, during, and after the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. Much of this three-part series was taken from his memoir, Memoirs of a Bolshevik. *The first of the three-part series looked Piatnitsky's early life and his role in guaranteeing communist propaganda, including the Bolshevik newspaper* Iskra. *The following part deals with his life while in prison and exile under Czarist Russia, leading up to the year of the Bolshevik Revolution—the first successful workers' state in history. At every turn, any accomplishments were made possible by the masses and working collectively.*

Early in March of 1902, Osip Piatnitsky was traveling with a comrade to secure the underground route to smuggling their newspaper, *Iskra*, from Germany to Russia. They were arrested and sent to the Kiev prison in Russia.

Inside the prison, hundreds of arrested students protested, creating such an uproar, crowds from the distant town came to the prison gates. It was in this prison that Piatnitsky had the time to be a teacher of Marxist literature. At age 17, he had four years of organizing.

The Great Escape from Kiev

Plans were made to escape. For weeks of preparation: getting ladders, a grapple, money, addresses in Kiev, practicing a human pyramid the height of the yard wall, singing in chorus, beating a tin can to mask the sound of the escapees climbing on the outside wall composed partly of tin, obtaining wine to get the guards drunk, and sleeping powder with which to keep them unconscious—all acquired from the outside.

Through collective organizing, they did escape! But the Kiev safe house addresses were wrong. They had to ride in cabs all night to avoid detection. Of the 11 men involved with *Iskra*, 10 survived the escape and arrived in Germany according to plan.

Odessa: Soldiers Unite

In January 1905, Piatnitsky arrived in Odessa. Prior to the January 22 uprising and march on the Tsar's palace, he was arrested with others at a meeting. The police left soldiers to guard them. With the absence of gendarmes (French armed police) they tore up all papers. When the police returned, they questioned who had destroyed the papers. The soldiers replied, "EVERYBODY."

The comrades and scores of others from all walks of politics remained imprisoned without trial for five months. When they were released pending a future trial, Piatnitsky decided not to appear at the trial and left for Moscow.

'Recognized' as Innocent

In 1907, many were arrested; detectives shadowing Piatnitsky increased. The Party suggested he leave Moscow. In his hometown, he was arrested. Due to the differences in his several passport pictures, the gendarmes couldn't identify him. At this time, jails were filled with peasants and intellectuals rebelling against landlords. With ongoing tortures and staging of trials, keeping Piatnitsky's identity safe also meant the safety of many others associated with him.

He was taken by foot to a town where he had never been, which had a notoriously vicious police chief. Several days later waiting in a cell where many had been tortured, he was called out to be recognized. He was "recognized" to be innocent by five people in that town who had never seen him before. On his way back to the cell, a stranger approached him and handed him five rubles. He realized relatives and friends had arranged the "recognition."

Cheated by Provocateur

In June of 1914, betrayed by a provocateur who had deliberately photographed him in Paris with other comrades so he could be identified—Piatnitsky was arrested, put in solitary for 2.5 months and sentenced to Siberia. Before they were transferred, he heard that World War I had begun and recalled that the Russo-Japanese war brought on the 1905 revolts.

In January 1915, he and 60 other comrades and criminals were forced to march 250 miles. They spent their nights in peasant huts. Larger villages held many exiled political prisoners where the peasants received them warmly. Piatnitsky was forced to walk to the furthest village in Siberia: Fedino, because of his escape reputation from Kiev.

It Takes a Collective Village

Fedino was more prosperous than the villages they'd walked through and consisted of 40 households who cultivated land outside the village. The economy was not collective in the least; men and women of the same family kept separate accounts. No one was taught to read and write.

During the next two years, 23 exiles came to live in Fedino. A few condemned by administrative decrees received eight rubles a month. Deportees received nothing.

The exiles worked out communal dining, collective buying and fair division of food and provisions. To sustain their sanity, the exiles read material provided by the local "Congress of Exiles." Piatnitsky taught children of the peasant family to read.

The snow at times was six feet deep. The last year, all staple articles disappeared from town markets. He organized a cooperative with the peasants, which was necessary for everyone's survival.

On the evening of March 9, 1917, he lay in his room in the dark without answering the door, the only time in his memoir he admitted depression. Late that evening, an exile from outside Fedino rushed in to announce that a bourgeoisie revolution had taken place in Russia (the February Revolution). Piatnitsky had one burning question: which party would organize more quickly—the party leading the proletariat and the peasantry or the party of the bourgeoisie?

Later the peasants of Fedino handed Piatnitsky the village seal and all the attributes of the office of "guard." After leaving for Moscow, he learned that during the remainder of 1917 Fedino peasants, led by exiles who remained there, took an active part in the guerilla battles against Kolchak bands.

Security: Build the Party

As we saw, Piatnisky's safety lay in the hands of the masses. Be it escaping from prison, falling under the police radar, or bare survival, it was possible when class-consciousness is planted deep and wide. Likewise, the security of communist work today lay in the hands of the working class—all communists and friends must build a base wherever they are: work, school, military, farm, or prison.✪

A third and final article will deal with some reasons why a revolution did not take place in the trade-union-organized country of Germany, as Marx predicted. The contrast of political life in Germany to the revolts in Odessa, and the struggle between the Mensheviks and Bolsheviks over the publishing of the paper in Samara (near St. Petersburg) will reflect the intensification of repression in Russia from 1908 through 1914.



ВТОРОЙ ГОДЪ ИЗДАНІЯ.

ИСКРА

РОССІЙСКАЯ СОЦІАЛЬ-ДЕМОКРАТИЧЕСКАЯ РАБОЧАЯ ПАРТІЯ

„Изъ искры возгорится пламя!"... Отвѣтъ декабристовъ Пушкину.

№ 18 — 10-го МАРТА 1902 ГОДА. — № 18

СЛАВЯНЕ И РЕВОЛЮЦІЯ*).

ИЗЪ НАШЕЙ ОБЩЕСТВЕННОЙ ЖИЗНИ

A copy of *Iskra*, smuggled into Russia

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Bay Area Experiences at anti-Nazi Rallies



Passive Counter-Protesters is Concerning

Going into a city known for its "radical" atmosphere, sometimes called the "People's Republic of Berkeley", I was expecting a friendly environment. What I quickly realized was that this image was created and maintained by the staunchly liberal leaders mainly to make its residents feel better about themselves.

Their beliefs did not evoke action, and indeed the atmosphere was incredibly restrictive to harness the true power of the thousands of people that came to kick Nazis out of their city. The crowd was mostly observant, speculative, and self-interested.

There were a large group of these counter-protesters that desired more radical action and change, but were largely unsupported by the liberal majority of the crowd. To take up space is important, but the degree that passive Berkeley supporters were unsupportive of action was definitely scary to see.

As both leftist and fascist movements continue to grow, I am concerned that the unwillingness to listen and act on our side will be a dangerous trend for us all.

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No Nazis in Sight

I headed to San Francisco on Saturday ready to confront some neo nazis. It was my first time and I was a bit nervous. But knowing my comrades were there with me made me feel better. A friend even texted me this morning asking if I was going to the protest, so I invited her to the group and was so glad when they showed up.

My confidence was boosted by making a sign saying "GOOD NIGHT ALT-RIGHT", with a fist punching a swastika. Up until we headed out, we kept getting updates about the nazis' location, so I felt increasingly unsure of their actual plans. I suspected that they would be at Crissy Field anyways, since most counterprotesters would have been diverted to Alamo Square, but nobody knew for sure so I had to trust our team.

When we got to Alamo square, we was immediately swarmed by counterprotesters marching down the street with no nazis in sight. I was relieved, but disappointed. We spent three hours in a growing counterprotest leading chants and marching.

Our group's energy was high and I was proud our chants were catching on. I had fun with a comrade making up some new chants too.

When we got back to have some pizza and debrief, we were interrupted by news that some nazis had gathered at Crissy Field and were outnumbering some counterprotesters that some people in our group personally knew. It was clear we had to go there and mobilise others to go as well, but I was stressed because I had to be home half an hour ago.

I debated this conflict between obeying my parents and doing what I knew had to be done. After several stressful minutes, I decided to join my comrades in going back to Crissy Field. The drive there was much more solemn. We all were aware of the potential danger of the situation. As we trekked down the shoreline, clouded and grey, I found comfort in walking by my friends and knowing that they were in it with me.

I still felt unprepared and unarmed. We reached the given address of the nazis after 20 minutes of walking, only to find nobody there. A few confusing minutes passed we finally confirmed that the nazis left. All the built-up anger in me suddenly dissipated. I was furious that the nazis had led us on this chase, baiting us, and ended up unscathed. They escaped the massive crowd at Alamo Square and they escaped again at Crissy Field.

But in some ways, they were defeated; the Nazis were too scared to show up in front of the counterprotesters. Some older comrades who were driving said that this showed the power of direct action. Hate is driven out by confronting it and making nazis afraid, not by any centrist idea of peacefully protesting in a different part of the city.

I left San Francisco knowing I can't leave any hate unchallenged, and will bring this experience with me when I continue to organise in the future.

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Is Protesting Enough?

I'm feeling very emotionally and spiritually drained after the events that transpired this weekend, and I am still attempting to figure out how I fit into all of this and how, if at all, my actions made any progress. We have a huge fascist movement in the country, spear-headed by Trump and other racist groups across the country and world (neo-nazis, KKK, and other faccists.)

We have a duty to unite as oppressed and working members of this society from all backgrounds, and to raise our voices and act to halt these racist and oppressive ideologies. This weekend's events were at once beautiful and flawed. On one hand, the shear number of counter-protestors that attended the march against racism came armed with liberal ideas. There were many organized and unorganized groups who said no to this kind of hatred. Many people were warm, beautiful, and loving.

On the other hand, marching with the PLP was a different kind of experience. I believe we were there not just to show up for racial justice and counter fascism, but also to fight for that racial justice. Many antiracist speakers told stories about love defeating hate, or sharing a poem or spoken word. For me, I was frustrated because rather than marching with militant force, the march was pacifist.

Thus my reflection on this weekend is trying to understand and balance those two facts—knowing our numbers scared off these racists but also that the protests didn't succeed in "winning" the larger battle at hand. At the Berkeley protest in particular, I found myself angry a lot—at the lack of militancy, the large police presence. I am still trying to understand that anger and use it in a productive way to create tangible change. I am still wondering if protesting is enough.

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Call It What It Is: Racism

San Francisco's radio show "Your Call", usually a great program, was reporting on the fascist rallies this weekend. I was driving and couldn't stop to call in, but I was struck that in this hour-long program on Nazis and Klan and Klan-like groups occupying areas of San Francisco and Berkeley, the word "racism" was uttered only twice, and only in passing.

Why are we avoiding this word? Quick calculations show that racist pay differentials alone give corporations hundreds of billions of dollars in profits. It's even more if you consider the billions they save from providing almost zero services and benefits to Black, Latin, Native, and immigrant workers. And white workers' wages are hugely reduced by racism too. That's why industry moved to the South, where racism is most strong and overt. In other words, the upstream cause of racism is capitalism, not white people in general. The theories of "white privilege" or "white supremacy" obscure this fact.

White workers must see and fight racism for the survival of all workers as well as themselves. Being oppressed and exploited less, even significantly less, is not a privilege. And the vast, vast majority of white workers are not supreme in any stretch of the imagination. It's the ruling class that's supreme and that's who we need to fight—united. Smash racism!

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Teachers Fought Racism from the Get-Go

Continued from page 8

cious anti-labor warfare that included repeated state-directed massacres of striking workers. Alien and Sedition Acts revoked legal protections of suspected revolutionaries. The Schenck v. U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing imprisonment of anti-imperialist street speakers and the raids organized by Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer, resulted in the largest mass deportation of political radicals in U.S. history.

This anticommunist crusade continued in NYC schools, crossing Democratic and Republican city governments and peaked in the 1950s. Loyalty oaths for teachers imposed during World War I were updated with anticommunist language. The early '40s saw the assault of the NY state Rapp-Coudert committee, tasked with rooting out communist teachers, which resulted in the removal of over 40 professors from CUNY's City College in Manhattan. Emboldened, in 1948 the bosses migrated their purge into the NYC public schools, and widened into documented investigation of over 1,100 teachers with over 400 being dismissed/retiring/resigning by the mid-1950s. The Teachers Union would hang on, with declining membership and influence until it disbanded in 1964.

Not a single teacher charged was found to be ineffective in the classroom or of indoctrinating students. On the contrary, these teachers tended to be highly regarded by colleagues and parents as especially dedicated to the mission of quality education for all. Parents, teachers, and community groups protested the first eight suspensions of communist teachers in 1948 with letters and meetings. Forty-eight teachers in Alice Citron's Harlem school wrote to Jansen that Citron had "worked tirelessly on behalf of the children"; a parade of Harlem mothers testified to the same effect during the subsequent administrative trial of Citron and the seven others.

The national union leadership of the AFT assisted the ruling class in purging the school system of communist teachers in every phase. They even launched their own six-year effort to strip the TU of its charter for the offense of electing communists to union leadership, imposing it in 1941, against the wishes of thousands of NYC teachers who voted for a communist leadership. The AFT's quiescence in the campaign to turn teachers into informants against each other through the '40s and '50s in NYC laid the basis for the emergence of the UFT in 1960-61.

Despite this deteriorating situation, the Teachers Union did not immediately disband. Instead, it launched campaigns to eliminate racist and bigoted textbooks from classrooms, hire more Black teachers and promote Black History Month. The TU remade itself into a leading voice in the New York City civil rights movement, by challenging the racially discriminatory polices of the Board of Education.

Weaknesses in the Work of the CPUSA in the Schools

After World War II, a lethal notion arose that the working class did not need a revolutionary communist party any more, that there could be "peaceful coexistence" between the Soviet Union and U.S. imperialism. The reasons for this retreat are discussed in numerous PLP documents, including Road to Revolution, I to IV.

The U.S. bosses were encouraged by the communist retreat, and launched another wave of anticommunist witch hunts in the 1950s. While communist teachers never let these purges derail mass antiracist organizing, these communists followed the international movement's lead and retreated even further from revolution. Worldwide, the collapse of the international communist movement was underway.

Meanwhile, revolutionary communists formed the PLP and rose to inherit the strengths of the old Communist Party USA (CPUSA); this time, to fight all the way to communism! PL'ers knew then and new generations know now there can never be any "peaceful coexistence" with capitalism. As in the past, today's communists are working to organize uncompromising struggle against racism and segregation in NYC schools. As the NYC Department of Education pursues a new effort to purge communists from the schools, the closing passage of Marx's Manifesto of 1848 remains our guide: "The communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. Let the ruling classes tremble at a communist revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains."

Friends of PLP may view the ruling class' attacks on communism as an absurd throwback to the 1950s. But capitalism's failures are endemic: the drive toward war, compounding inequality, rising racism and fascism—these crises cry out for solution, and millions seek a way out. Communism remains that way out. The rulers know communism remains a threat, no matter how few in number the communists may be. Help lead society toward the day when workers like the brave members of the Teachers Union are in power—answer the bosses attacks by joining the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party!✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Capitalists reaping $150 billion profit off modern slave trade

GW, 8/4 — Modern-day slave traders are making a return on their investment 25 to 30 times higher than the slave traders of the 18th and 19th centuries….Slavery if far more profitable now than at any other point in human history….

…The average profit a victim generates for their exploiters is $3,978 a year. Sex trafficking['s]…average profit for each victim is $36,000….

Between the 15th and 19th centuries…roughly 13 million people were captured and sold as slaves by professional traders. Today…at least 21 million people are in some form of modern slavery….with total annual slavery profits estimated to be as high as $150bn….

…Huge global migration flows are producing a ready and easily exploitable supply of victims who can be fed into a large number of industries linked to the global trade such as fashion, seafood and commercial sex.

"Human life has become more expendable than ever," said [Siddarth] Kara [a slavery economist…at Harvard Business School]. "Slavery can be acquired, exploited and discarded in relatively short periods and still provide immense profits for their exploiters."

U.S. rulers' governments enforced apartheid housing segregation

NYT, 8/6 — …Racial zoning law[s]….are part of a…history of government-sponsored racial segregation….Biased policies like economic zoning that banned apartment buildings in areas designated for single-family homes….[and] because African-Americans were disproportionately low-income, economic zoning…accomplished much of the same results as explicit racial zoning….

The Supreme Court's …willingness to tolerate explicit economic discrimination is mirrored in American public policy…Class-based segregation has been increasing. In fact, [Harvard] Professor Robert Putnam says, "a kind of incipient class apartheid has been sweeping across the country…."

Rising class segregation by residence is partly related to rising income inequality…[and] an expansion of exclusionary zoning….that exclude millions of low-income African-Americans and Latinos from wealthier white communities. And growing numbers of poor whites are affected as well….Eco0nomic segregation matters because where you live affects…your access to transportation, employment opportunities, decent health care and good schools….Property owners in exclusive neighborhoods…have enjoyed unwarranted inflation of their home values through social engineering….driving up prices….For government regulation to exclude people from neighborhoods on the basis of race…excludes entire groups of adults and children from communities on the basis of income….

U.S. rulers enable Saudi coalition to slaughter in Yemen

NYT, 8/25 — The Saudi-led coalition waging a bombing campaign in Yemen has once again been named in a UN draft report as the major culprit in the deaths and injuries of children in that war-ravaged…state….

The…war that has engulfed Yemen…for almost three years…has created one of worst humanitarian crises on the globe. Almost three million Yemenis are internally displaced; the numbers of acutely malnourished children and people in dire need of food assistance are the highest in the world; health services have been devastated; and the cholera epidemic has killed nearly 2,000 people and infected more than half a million in just three months. Yet a blockade by the Saudi-led coalition has reduced humanitarian aid to a trickle.

And there's the bombing….More than 7,600 people have been killed and 42,000 wounded, most of them in coalition airstrikes….Hospitals, schools and other civilian sites have been struck…The coalition…includes Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates….

…The Saudi coalition — and its American enablers, who provide military equipment, aerial refueling and targeting — [generate]…the unconscionable slaughter of innocents….Saudi Arabia and its American backers [are creating]…Yemen's hell.

'Wealthy dynasties rule America'

GW, 8/4 — …Billionaires such as Warren Buffett, Bill Gates and Michael Bloomberg have vowed to leave only limited money to their children — committing the bulk of their fortunes to philanthropy….

Yet…dynastic power in America can take different forms — one…is the influence that comes with controlling a family foundation. In fact, there may be no better way for the super-rich to the clout of heirs than to lock up their wealth in a foundation….There are more than 90,000 private foundations in the U.S., with over $800 billion in assets….Such institutions offer a powerful means for heirs to wield influence in society long after the original benefactor is gone….

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund, established by John D. Rockefeller's grandsons in 1940,…works to sway public policy….As donors, they have the ability to powerfully intervene in ordinary people's lives, both in America and around the world.

Communist Teachers Fight, Then and Now

A Brief History of 'Reds at the Blackboard'

As school returns to session for parents, students, and teachers across the northern hemisphere, readers of CHALLENGE and millions more aim to make the fight against racism a central part of the coming year. Donald Trump's embrace of Nazi and KKK scum in the wake of Charlottesville is the most open show of support for racism from the White House since Woodrow Wilson screened the pro-Klan film, "Birth of a Nation," a hundred years ago.

Teachers = Education Workers

Teachers and others determined to bring the struggle against racism into the schools today have much to learn from the efforts of communist teachers in New York City in the 1930s-1950s.

The NYC city school system expanded at breakneck pace in the early twentieth century, as the NYC ruling class absorbed millions of economic refugees migrating from Southern and Eastern Europe, and later, Black migrants from the Southern U.S.

In contrast to the majority of their students who faced mass racist unemployment, underemployment, incarceration, or the military, teachers' salaries provided a decent standard of living.



Teachers protest anti-communist witch hunts

Irrespective of salary, however, teachers remained, and are, exploited workers, alongside their students and all other workers. Teachers in the 1930s fought back on this basis, and as they did, two tendencies in teacher unionism emerged. One tendency in teacher unionism involved organizing teachers as professionals and pursuing collaborative relations with administrators and the Board of Education, with the aim of persuading school bosses to make incremental improvements to teacher working conditions. It was argued that the ripple effect of these improvements would also serve the interests of students. This tendency lives on in the leadership of the two major U.S. teacher unions: the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the National Education Association (NEA).

The other tendency in teacher unionism was led by communists to organize teachers as workers. Teachers would fight for school improvements alongside students and parents, and organize entire neighborhoods to feel the strength of collective action by demanding changes at their local school. Rooted in the working class masses, a city-wide teacher's union movement grew: New York City Teachers' Union (TU).

From its inception, the TU launched mass anti-racist campaigns in Harlem, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Williamsburg and the South Bronx against abusive school principals, for repairs to dilapidated school buildings, and for the staffing of Black and Latin schools with experienced teachers.

Communist Call to Teachers: Serve the People

In the 1930s and '40s, the communist-led Teachers' Union (TU) was the leading teachers' organization in the city. The city bosses were careful to never recognize this union as the official bargaining representative of the city's teachers. Nevertheless the TU launched fights to reduce class size and ban gender discrimination in teacher hiring (which lost and won fights to make statutory racial segregation illegal in New York State), due process for probationary and licensed teachers, and the establishment of nursery schools under existing boards of education statewide.

The TU struggled to win teachers to join antiwar, antifascist, social and unemployment committees. Beyond filing grievances, teachers were struggled with to join labor history, academic freedom, educational policy and finance committees. All communist-led efforts worked to deepen the commitment of teachers to the working class in general and the Black working class in particular.

A featured column by Howard University professor Doxey Wilkerson in the March, 1938 edition of the TU newspaper, New York Teacher, laid out the stakes of the fight against segregated schooling in New York City:

> *"Wilkerson argued that the New York City educational system assured that blacks [sic] would remain locked in America's caste hierarchy. Despite the lack of de jure racial racism in the North, racism nonetheless was still a reality, and the institution where it reared its ugly head the highest was the school system…Wilkerson declared that a deliberate 'mental crucifixion' of black children was taking place. In schools in Harlem black students were not allowed to use the swimming pools, were assigned seats in the back of the classroom and were excluded from extracurricular activities and social events. Thus, the Negro child is made to realize that he is not an integral part of the social group with which he is thrown, but rather, that he is a thing apart, isolated, ostracized, somehow not quite like his classmates*
>
> *—Reds at the Blackboard, Clarence Taylor*

As World War II approached, the TU characterized Northern Jim Crow as American Nazism and overt acts of racism as actions of a fifth column—a domestic force committed to the victory of Hitler's Germany.

Fascists Light the Fires; Liberals Bring the Fuel

From the moment the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 achieved communist victory, the U.S. ruling class kicked into overdrive a long tradition of vi-

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